

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2009
INDIAN ISLAND GOLF COURSE, RIVERHEAD, NY**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Pamela Greene	Director, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions and Management
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Legislator Vilorio-Fisher	Legislature

Vice Chairman Dawson called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

Tom Jones, Suffolk Committee for Camping, spoke about the acquisition of a parcel on the north shore (North Fork Preserve) mentioned at the last Trustees meeting by Commissioner Pavacic. On behalf of the campers, when deciding what to do with that property he hopes the county will consider making it a campground.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 18th, 2009

On page 2, under "United Artists County Park Addition" change second paragraph to read *motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Walters.*

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) to Renovate and Operate a Marina Concession

The Commissioner reported an RFEI was circulated to the Trustees. We are exploring the potential for having one or more of our marinas operated by a concessionaire. A potential interested party could look at operating one, or several, or all of the marinas listed in the document.

Colleen Hofmeister reported the concept came initially from the County Executive's offices. They asked us to go out for a formal RFP. The more we thought about it, we realized that before we went for a full RFP which would result in a final contract negotiation, we wanted to go for the RFEI which would just provide us with a proposal. One of the pieces of the RFEI is a sample contract so the concessionaires are aware of County requirements. Via Standard Operating Procedure, we are asking the Trustees for their approval of this RFEI before we advertise.

A motion to approve a Request for Expression of Interest to Renovate and Operate a Marina Concession was made by Trustee White and seconded by Vice Chairman Dawson. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Trustees Mileage Reimbursement

The Commissioner reminded the Trustees to submit their mileage reimbursement vouchers for the 2nd quarter of 2009.

Cedar Point County Park Master Plan

The Commissioner reported a number of Trustees received a site tour of Cedar Point County Park. He asked if there were any additional questions or items of concern relating to the Master Plan.

Trustee Borden said after visiting the site for the first time, he was very impressed with the facility and the staff. Trustee Walters agreed. Trustee White visited the site another day and was also impressed with the park. Trustee White said you can tell how well it is run just by looking at the campers.

A motion to approve the Cedar Point County Park Master Plan was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Walters. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Smith Point Bridge

Commissioner Pavacic reported the Smith Point Bridge is undergoing repairs. The repairs are being done by the same contractor who will be building the fishing pier. The bridge repairs are being done first so that the bridge can support the weight of the materials needed for the pier. We're hoping that the actual pier construction will begin prior to the end of August.

Smith Point – Installation of Buoys

In cooperation with the Town of Brookhaven, 4 buoys (2 green and 2 red) were installed at the Smith Point channels that lead out into the narrows. The buoys will be pulled out in November. We are looking to enter into a long term agreement with the Town to install and remove the buoys on an annual basis.

GATR Site Maintenance Facility

The Commissioner reported a pre-construction meeting was held at the site this morning. The interior demolition work will begin next week. Some of the contractor's staff will be using the cabins.

Cupsogue Boardwalk

The surveys and drawings have been completed. The drawings have been sent to DPW. DPW will be issuing a design RFP. A subsequent RFP will be issued for construction.

Farmingville Hills

Under the direction of Karen Nicholson, Tony Trotta and Nick Gibbons, we have established a new parking area, a new semi-circular driveway, fencing signage and a trailhead.

Row Avenue/Mud Creek Natural Borders Dog Park

The natural borders dog park is moving ahead. Karen Nicholson and her crew and Nick Gibbons and his crew are working on getting the area prepared.

Parks Police Rescue at Smith Point

Last week 2 Park Police officers made a dramatic rescue at Smith Point. It happened several hours after the lifeguards went off duty. We are very proud of those officers.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I.R. 1273

Vice Chairman Dawson reported I.R. 1273 is still in a hold pattern awaiting the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission which we anticipate some time in August.

Trustee for the Town of Brookhaven

Legislator Vilorio-Fisher asked if there has been any movement on a Trustee from the Town of Brookhaven.

Trustee Engel reported the Supervisor's office for the Town of Brookhaven will be reaching out to Legislator Lindsay and we should have a new Trustee in the next couple of weeks.

PUBLIC PORTION

Michael Sullivan, a resident of Abbington Drive in Huntington, reported the dog problems at Coindre Hall continue. It's very disruptive. The dog owners themselves take great pride in the fact that they are not adhering to the regulations and the laws. They continue to allow their dogs to run loose. We deal with multiple dogs barking day and night. It starts at 5:30 AM and ends between 8:00PM - 10:00 PM. Our quality of life issue needs to be respected. Dog leash laws are not enforced and I am asking for your help. When the police arrive, the dog owners call each other from their cell phones to let others know of the police presence.

John A. Giovannello

Mr. Giovannello said that the County Executive has made it clear that he will not back an off-leash dog park at Coindre Hall. Chairman Cardillo said that an unleashed dog park at Coindre Hall is against regulations and is an act of civil disobedience. Trustee McKay went one step further and said the people who are presently making unauthorized use of the property should cease and desist. He also said it would be a show of good faith for future negotiations. Up to this point it has been anything but a show of good faith with the dog owners blatantly disregarding the wishes of the Trustees. Nothing has changed. We are looking to get our lives back. It is unbearable. (Photographs were distributed of off-leash dogs on Mr. Giovannello's backyard deck).

ROUND TABLE

Trustee McKay attended a meeting with the Huntington's Open Space and Park Improvements and they voted \$1,000,000 for site improvement and development at Breezy Park. There will be two lighted soccer

fields, turf fields, etc. The Cold Spring Harbor Soccer Club has also made \$1,000,000 available. If the opportunity presents itself, drive by and take a look.

Trustee White thanked Deputy Commissioner Bellone and Nick Gibbons for coming to Montauk and moving along the GATR site communication system.

Trustee Borden said the unleashed dog issue at Coindre Hall is bothersome. We have to take some concrete steps. Perhaps we can assign somebody there on a temporary basis to enforce our regulations. We need to put this on the agenda.

Commissioner Pavacic said we have been taking steps to try to correct this situation. On almost every tour Park Police swing by Coindre Hall. We also have had plain clothes officers in unmarked vehicles visit the park and they issued tickets. We also raised the cost of a ticket from \$50.00 to \$100.00. It has not been a deterrent. The Commissioner reported he will be in a meeting tomorrow with the County Executive's staff and will discuss this issue.

Trustee Borden reported he spoke with users at Cedar Point County Park and outer beach users at Theodore Roosevelt County Park and they had only good things to say about Parks staff at both facilities. This is another example of the fine work of Parks staff.

Amy Engel said a few months ago the County Executive issued the appropriations request with federal representatives. Those were sent to Congressman Israel and Congressman Bishop. Now we have to put this request in with the Senate. We have sent our request to Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand. The #2 priority for the County is the Smith Point Bridge. We're hoping that if we do get funding it will cover the initial stage.

Trustee Engel reported the County Executive recently attended a meeting for a Sustainable Long Island. It came up that Farmingville needs more parks. Trustee Engel attended this meeting as well as Legislator Beedenbender, who represents that area, and Tom Isles, Director of the Planning Department. The community is very happy that Farmingville Hills is going to be opened.

Trustee Engel said that on a personal note she has been going to Cupsogue with her children and it's fantastic. The lifeguards are great; they did a save while they were there. The beach is clean, the water is clear and it is kept beautifully.

Janet Longo reported she visited Cupsogue last weekend. The lifeguards were amazing. She personally saw 7 saves over this past weekend. The team work of the lifeguards was incredible.

Trustee Corwin said his concerns with the situation at Coindre Hall mirror those of Trustee Borden. It's not fair to the neighbors. He asked whatever became of having a fenced in area at Coindre.

Commissioner Pavacic reported it hasn't been forgotten. Parks met with L.I. Dog earlier this year at the site but it never got under way because both the neighbors on Browns Road, as well as L.I. Dog, did not like this idea. The proposed fenced in dog run would need to be in the location approved by CEQ as a pilot program. In that agreement the town was to assist us with security. Until everyone agrees to move forward with that proposal, we are at a stand still.

Legislator Vioria-Fisher reported her son loves Cupsogue Beach. It's a wonderful beach...really a gem.

Trustee Hilary asked if there was an obligation of Suffolk County Parks to keep Coindre Hall open from dusk to dawn each day.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that we have a concessionaire there and they must have the ability to cater at that facility. We also have Splashes of Hope in there and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program is based there as well. We also have the boat house at the bottom of the hill. We cannot inhibit those operations.

Trustee McKay asked if we could fence along the top adjacent to the parking area so there is no longer access to the field from the parking area.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded it would have to be a 6 foot fence and the Historic Trust would have to vote on it and it might not be too attractive. It would also limit access.

Trustee Dawson asked if the summons could be written under a different statute that would make this a criminal offense or a misdemeanor and it would go to criminal court as opposed to a civil court.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that it's a violation of local law.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at Smithers County Park in Flanders, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0